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GUEVARA PRAISES FULBRIGHT'S TALK

Cuban Official Says Havana
Favors Negotiations but
Doubts U.S. Policy Shift

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GENEVA, March 31 —

Ernesto Che Guevara, Minister of Industry of Cuba, welcomed today a declaration last week by Senator J. W. Fulbright to the effect that "Cuba is here to stay." But he said that comment on it by Secretary of State Dean Rusk indicated no change in United States policy.

Major Guevara said at a news conference here that the Government of Premier Fidel Castro "is completely disposed to engage in a dialogue with the United States." But Washington, he added, demands "the nonexistence of our Government" as a condition for discussions.

Blockade's Effect Discounted

Major Guevara is the chief Cuban delegate to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, now in its second session. He said that the Castro forces' green fatigue uniform and smoking a cigar, he was relaxed through 80 minutes of questions.

Dr. Guevara asserted that the United States economic blockade of Cuba caused "more trouble for the United States, fighting with its allies, than for us."

The suspension of United States purchases of Cuban sugar has been offset by sales to Communist countries, he added. However, the end of tobacco purchases is "a nuisance," Dr. Guevara said, because Cuba had prepared a special type of tobacco for the United States "and now we have to smoke those cigars, which we don't like."

Official conference activity today consisted of opening speeches by 11 of the 120 participating countries. The

speech-making has eight more days to go, at least.

On the periphery of the conference there was a political incident.

Israel accused the president of the conference, Abdel Monem el-Kaissouni of the United Arab Republic, of a breach of impartiality and courtesy in not having invited Israel's chief delegate, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapiro, to a dinner for delegation heads last week. The charge was made in a letter to the conference's secretariat.

Other political issues here remained quiet, but one, an African-Asian debate of whether to make a real demonstration against South Africa and Portugal at the session, continued to simmer.

Fulbright Speech Stressed

At his news conference, the bulk of Dr. Guevara's remarks dealt with Senator Fulbright's speech and the United States economic blockade of Cuba.

Senator Fulbright, an Arkansas Democrat and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a speech last Wednesday that the blockade had been a failure. He suggested that the United States accept

the Castro Government as "a disagreeable reality and annoyance" that is not likely to disappear soon.

Secretary Rusk, at a news conference two days later, disagreed. He said that Premier Castro is "a threat" and that the effect of the blockade had been "substantial."

Dr. Guevara said that the important part of the speech was that the Senator "recognizes the stability of the Cuban Revolution."

"In the United States, the idea that Cuba is here to stay is growing stronger every day," he asserted.

Dr. Guevara called Senator Fulbright "highly representative" but then said the same of Secretary Rusk. Nothing that Mr. Rusk had "rejected" the Fulbright views, he said: "We have to hold to the objective facts."

The blockade hurt Cuba at the beginning, Dr. Guevara continued, particularly with regard to raw materials and spare parts. But this, he said, forced Cuba to develop her own technology "and for the rest we have been helped by other Socialist countries."

Dr. Guevara said that 75 per cent of Cuba's sugar output was going to Communist countries — the Soviet Union, China, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria.

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